

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. The Office Action dated May 7, 2004 has been carefully considered. The above amendments and the following remarks are presented in a sincere attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 12, 20 have been amended in this Response. Claims 1, 3-11, 13-19, and 21-23 have been determined by the Examiner to be in condition for the allowance. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks for those Claims not in condition for allowance.

An interview was held with the Examiner, Mr. Emmanuel Moise, on July 28, 2004 to discuss the rejections under U.S.C. §112 and the proposed amendments thereto. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended.

Claims 2, 12, and 20 stand as objected to as assertedly having informalities. Insofar as they may be applied against the Claims, these rejections are deemed overcome.

Rejected dependent Claims 2, 12, and 20 have now been amended. More particularly, "repeating steps of Claim 1," "repeating steps of Claim 11," and "repeating steps of Claim 19" have been deleted from Claims 2, 12, and 20, respectively. Applicants therefore submit that amended Claims 2, 12, and 20 overcome the informalities asserted by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections of amended Claims 2, 12, and 20 be withdrawn and that Claims 2, 12, and 20 be allowed.

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of Claims 1-23.

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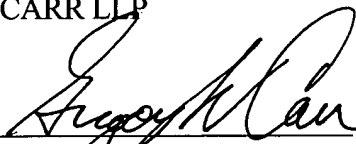
Technology Center 2100

Applicants have included a check in the amount of one hundred ten dollars (\$110.00) to cover a one month extension fee. In the event that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-0605 of CARR LLP.

Should the Examiner require any further clarification to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CARR LLP



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Dated: 9/7/04
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